What is claimed is:

1.   A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency

identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

     reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

     storing the customer identifier in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items

presented for purchase in a current transaction.

2.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the customer identifier is read from an RFID

tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

3.   The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

     concluding that at least some of one or more items possessed by a shopper were not paid

for in the current transaction if the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag affixed to

each such item.

4.   A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID")

technology, comprising steps of:

     reading, from a customer loyalty card, a customer identifier; and

     concluding that at least some of one or more items possessed by a shopper were not paid

for if the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

5.   The method according to Claim 4, wherein the customer identifier is read from an RFID

2   tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1   6.   The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of storing the customer

2   identifier in the RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items, when the items were presented for

3   purchase prior to operation of the concluding step.

1   7.   The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of remembering each item

2   that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a

3   transaction represented by the receipt was conducted, and wherein the searching and concluding

4   steps do not apply to the remembered items.

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6   7.   A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency

7   identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

8   means for reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

9   means for storing the customer identifier in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more

10   items presented for purchase in a current transaction.

1   8.   The system according to Claim 7, wherein the customer identifier is read from an RFID

2   tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1   9.   The system according to Claim 7, further comprising:

2   means for concluding that at least some of one or more items possessed by a shopper were

3   not paid for in the current transaction if the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag

4   affixed to each such item.

1   9.   The system according to Claim 7, further comprising:

2   means for concluding that at least some of one or more items possessed by a shopper were

3   not paid for in the current transaction if the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag

4   affixed to each such item.

1   10.   A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID")

2   technology, comprising:

3   means for reading, from a customer loyalty card, a customer identifier; and

4   means for concluding that at least some of one or more items possessed by a shopper were

5   not paid for if the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

1   11.   The system according to Claim 10, wherein the customer identifier is read from an RFID

2   tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1   12.   The system according to Claim 10, further comprising means for storing the customer

2   identifier in the RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items, when the items were presented for

3   purchase prior to operation of the means for concluding.

1   13.   A computer program product for preparing information usable in theft detection using

2   radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on

3   one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4   computer-readable program code means for reading a customer identifier from a customer

5   loyalty card; and

6   computer-readable program code means for storing the customer identifier in an RFID tag

7   affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in a current transaction.

1   14.   The computer program product according to Claim 13, wherein the customer identifier is

2   read from an RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1   15.   The computer program product according to Claim 13, further comprising:

2   computer-readable program code means for concluding that at least some of one or more

3   items possessed by a shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if the customer identifier

4   is not present in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

1   16.   A computer program product for detecting potential theft using radio frequency

2   identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more

3   computer-readable media and comprising:

4   computer-readable program code means for reading, from a customer loyalty card, a

5   customer identifier; and

6   computer-readable program code means for concluding that at least some of one or more

7   items possessed by a shopper were not paid for if the customer identifier is not present in an RFID

8 tag affixed to each such item.

1 17. The computer program product according to Claim 16, wherein the customer identifier is

2 read from an RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 18. The computer program product according to Claim 16, further comprising computer-

2 readable program code means for storing the customer identifier in the RFID tag affixed to each

3 of one or more items, when the items were presented for purchase prior to operation of the

4 computer-readable program code means for concluding.

1 19. A customer loyalty card bearing identifying information about a customer, wherein the

2 card is augmented with a radio-frequency identification ("RFID") tag in which the identifying

3 information is stored, thereby enabling the identifying information to be read from the card with

4 an RFID reader device.